

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. The Office Action, however, continued to reject all claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ma et al. (US 6,673,285 B2).

In short, the Office Action has maintained its previous rejections. Applicant continues to disagree for all the reasons previously advanced, and therefore repeats and realleges those arguments herein (thereby preserving these arguments for appeal, should an appeal be necessary). Notwithstanding, to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 27 to more clearly define over the cited art.

In this regard, independent claims 1 and 27 have been amended to add the limitation of “simultaneously dissolving one or more kinds of bioresorbable polymers and a low molecular weight oligomer in an organic solvent to form a bioresorbable polymer solution”. Support for the limitation can be found in page 12, Example 1 of the specification. Accordingly, this amendment adds no new matter to this application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the reason that **Ma fails to teach or suggest simultaneously dissolving bioresorbable polymer and pore former in organic solvent**. Claims 1 and 27 recite simultaneously dissolving one or more kinds of bioresorbable polymers and a low molecular weight oligomer in an organic solvent to form a bioresorbable polymer solution.

In contrast, Ma teaches that a biodegradable polymer is dissolved in a solvent such as pyridine to prepare a solution ***and then*** the polymer solution is cast onto a negative replica such as paraffin sphere (pore former) (see abstract and column 10, lines 16-19). Thus, the biodegradable polymer and paraffin sphere (pore former) are separately (and sequentially)

dissolved in the solvent. Consequently, the cited reference fails to disclose simultaneously dissolving bioresorbable polymer and pore former in organic solvent.

For at least this reason, the cited reference fails to disclose all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 27. Insofar as claims 2-26 depend from claim 1, these claims are also allowable.

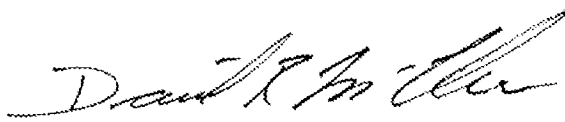
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

A credit card authorization accompanies this submission to cover the fee for the accompanying RCE application. No additional fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to FINAL Office Action. If, however, any additional fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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